



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**African Heritage Month**

**WHEREAS**, America traces part of its heritage to immigrants, and African immigrants are proud to join the rest of the country in celebrating their heritage in September and in highlighting African immigrant health; and

**WHEREAS**, African Union Day is on September 9th and 2011 has been declared International Year of People of African Descent by the United Nations; and

**WHEREAS**, Africans have some of the highest educational and income levels in the United States and have made significant contributions to every area of American life, such as the arts, health, education, community service and public policy; and

**WHEREAS**, raising awareness about African immigrant health is crucial to fighting health disparities and essential to building a network of African immigrants and refugee health advocates who disseminate culturally sensitive information to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, a healthy and vibrant African immigrant community will continue to enrich American life with its rich heritage and culture; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September, 2011 as African Heritage Month in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State